

William Arbour House
222 Spruce Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1051

HABS
PA
51-PHILA
250-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM ARBOUR HOUSE

HABS
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51-PHILA
250

Street Address: 222 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Owned and occupied now by Charles Henry Lewis.

Used: As a residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: Possibly the earliest surviving row house on Society Hill, it is typical of small Philadelphia row houses of the period, with its simple wood paneling, one-room-per-floor plan, and shed roof dormers.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and subsequent owners: (Parentheses indicate Deed Book and page numbers, Records Department, Philadelphia City Hall).

1. 1743 to William Arbour, Yeoman (D 15 284).
 2. Arbour 1745-6 to Phillip Winemore, laborer (D 12 414).
 3. Winemore 1783 to daughter, Maria Marshall (Will Q 423).
 4. Marshall to daughter, Mary Rush (IC 9 331).
 5. Rush 1852 to John Bernadow, merchant (TH 25 510).
 6. Bernadow 1864 to Maurice Sheahan, salesman (LRB 61 35).
 7. Sheahan 1875 to daughter, Catherine Berry (WSV 532 136).
- [Items 8-10 and 12 are from Records of Transfer, Lots 201, 202, Registry Unit, Records Department, Philadelphia City Hall].
8. Berry 1905 to Leopold Klein.
 9. Klein 1921 to Eugene Nice.
 10. Nice 1922 to Edward Menger.
 11. Menger to Felice Palidora.
 12. Palidora 1944 to Julia Bezotsky.
 13. Bezotsky 1958 to Charles Lewis.

- B. Erected: Between 1743 and 1745.
- C. Built for/by Arbour.
- D. Original plans: Original house had one room per floor, two floors, plus attic and cellar, with a winding stairway in the rear west corner, a fireplace on the west wall of each floor except the cellar, and windowless party walls east and west.
- E. Original construction: Same as the existing except for minor opening changes and replacement of a few joists. (See Architectural Description below).
- F. Alterations and additions: Shortly after the original house was built (before its rear cornice was painted), a two-story, shed roof, brick building was added with enclosed winding stair and fireplaces on the west wall. (Both this and a still later one-story frame addition were removed in 1958, leaving a one-story wall on the west property line). Sometime in the nineteenth century, the fireplace openings were bricked and plastered; the chimneys punctured for stove pipes.

In the late eighteenth century, the elevation of Spruce Street was lowered and four steps were added to the original white stone stoop. Various light partitions have been added and removed in the second floor, and a modern bathroom and closet were added there in 1958. Also effected at that time were door openings in the east party wall; removal of the cellar and first floor sections of the stair; change of the front door to a window, and removal of the accompanying stoop; new plaster throughout; some new woodwork, some new windows and doors; and a new plaster cove cornice and pent eave in the front. The second floor's fireplace paneling was removed to the cellar then, also.

- G. Sources of information: Records Department, City Hall, Philadelphia; measurements taken by Randolph Damon Childs in 1958; inspection of building in 1959; and interviews with Charles Lewis, present owner.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. Condition of Fabric: Sound, the building having been remodeled in 1958 from the design of R. D. Childs.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 14'-10" wide x 18'-1" deep.
Addition now removed 17'-5" x 11'-2".
2. Foundations: Rubble stonework, approximately 1' thick, not exposed above grade.
3. Wall construction: Red brick, laid in common bond with a two-course brick string course in front at the second floor window sill height. Brick painted gray (1958).
4. Chimney: Original, plain brick, serving two of original three fireplaces.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The existing north wall openings approximate the original in location. Exterior door is modern, six-paneled.
 - b. Windows: 6 over 9 lights, wooden, double-hung sash, modern.
 - c. Shutters: Modern, paneled.
6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable, slopes to street at pitch approximately 9 to 12. Covered with modern roof paper.
 - b. Cornice: Plaster-cove, with wood moldings top and bottom.
 - c. Pent Eave: Modern, plaster-cove.
 - d. Dormers: Shed, one each front and back, at a pitch of approximately 4 to 12. Modern, 4 light, single, wood casements. Roof and cheeks papered, modern.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans

- a. First Floor: Single room; no stair.
- b. Second Floor: Bedroom and modern bath. Original closed stair to attic; original fireplace.
- c. Attic: Single room; closed fireplace.

2. Stairways: Enclosed, winding stair from second floor to attic all that remains of original basement-to-attic stair.
3. Flooring: Original random width pine boards; nailed, alternating all-male and all-female tongue and groove. Cellar floor laid in 1958 is concrete.
4. Joists: 8 x 1-1/2, sawn, mostly original.
5. Wall and ceiling finish: Modern painted plaster on metal lath, replacing plaster on wood lath. Second floor fireplace wall originally paneled, now exposed brick (See drawing). Paneling, now dismantled in cellar, has large panels and plain (unbeaded) moldings, both typical.
6. Doorways and doors: Original doors on closets and stair have two panels and plain moldings. Other doors modern. New openings through bearing wall in cellar, first and second floors to adjoining Winemore House, 220 Spruce Street.
7. Trim: Modern ogee milled, except on old paneling of fireplace wall and stair, for which see HABS drawings.
8. Hardware: H-L hinges and latches on old doors are original; the rest is good modern reproduction, or modern design.
9. Lighting: Electric
10. Heating: Central baseboard heat. Attic fireplace still closed.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: North to Spruce Street. Tangent to Spruce and American Streets, although originally it was flanked by a house to the west.
2. Enclosures: Remains of early addition's party wall on American Street now a garden wall. Yard's south boundary is wall of house on American Street.
3. Sidewalk: Modern concrete.
4. Garden: Lawn and garden borders in rear.